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[Inclosure.]

Report of infectious disease in Japan from October 21 to November 10, 1899.

Locality.	Dysentery.		Plague.		Smallpox.		Cholera.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Kioto Fu.....	185	58						
Osaka Fu.....	62	16						
Tokyo Fu.....	190	13						
Aichi Ken.....	110	17						
Akita Ken.....	392	63						
Awomori Ken.....	6,012	685						
Chiba Ken.....	196	50						
Fukui Ken.....	55	20						
Fukuoka Ken.....	38	7						
Fukushima Ken.....	1,651	344						
Gifu Ken.....	143	36						
Gumma Ken.....	110	32						
Hiogo Ken.....	172	63	1	1				
Hiroshima Ken.....	78	28	1	1				
Ibaraki Ken.....	130	40						
Ishikawa Ken.....	136	65						
Iwate Ken.....	5,266	1,306						
Kagawa Ken.....	67	31						
Kagoshima Ken.....	172	33						
Kanagawa Ken.....	155	49						
Kochi Ken.....	211	27						
Kumamoto Ken.....	84	16						
Miyagi Ken.....	1,335	366						
Miyazaki Ken.....	52	11						
Miye Ken.....	33	16						
Nagano Ken.....	529	173						
Nagasaki Ken.....	60	12						
Nara Ken.....	10	1						
Niigata Ken.....	2,323	635						
Oita Ken.....	41	11						
Okayama Ken.....	104	43						
Okinawa Ken.....	41	6						
Saga Ken.....	2	1						
Saitama Ken.....	99	37						
Shidzuoka Ken.....	164	45						
Shiga Ken.....	20	4						
Shimane Ken.....	95	13						
Tochigi Ken.....	134	42						
Tokushima Ken.....	51	17						
Tottori Ken.....	25	11						
Toyama Ken.....	90	27						
Wakayama Ken.....	28	2						
Yamagata Ken.....	290	64						
Yamaguchi Ken.....	65	16						
Yamanashi Ken.....	226	84						
Yehime Ken.....	41	12						
The Hokkaido.....	92	(a)						
Taiwan(Formosa)a.....								
Total.....	21,568	4,646	2	2				

a No report.

MEXICO.

Concerning items mentioned in reports from Vera Cruz, etc.

The following letter has been received through the Mexican ambassador and Secretary of State :

REPORTS RELATING TO THE YELLOW FEVER.

[Chancellory section No. 327.]

SECRETARY OF STATE,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Mexico, November 21, 1899.

The secretary of government, in a letter of the 17th instant, writes to me as follows : Nos. 35, 36, and 37 of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS for

this year, published at Washington by the Treasury Department, contain several reports with regard to the spread of yellow fever in those places in the Republic which are suffering from that scourge; and the following language is used concerning the port of Vera Cruz: (1) That the cases of black vomit, discovered on board the Spanish steamer *Mayo*, in August last, were due to the laborers from the shore, who brought the germs of the disease on board. (2) That the said vessel was not disinfected because the Federal sanitary authorities informed the captain that they required for that purpose a ton of sulphur and \$300. (3) That on the passage from Vera Cruz to Ship Island, to which place the vessel proceeded, a case of yellow fever occurred, and that it is to be remarked that this disease has been found only on Spanish vessels. (4) That a person coming from Vera Cruz arrived at El Paso, Tex., without a certificate that his baggage had been disinfected; that, moreover, it is easy for the passengers for Havana to catch the black vomit from contact with those who are going to Progreso, which contact can not be avoided because the inspection of those passengers is not entrusted to the American commissioner at that place, and, lastly, that Dr. Hodgson himself, who furnished the foregoing information, asserts that the physicians of the port of Vera Cruz accept the presence of albumen in the urine as a test in the diagnosis of yellow fever (vomit). In order to notify your Department, and to make the necessary corrections in the matter, the sanitary delegate at that place was asked for a report, and he made it in the following words: "In compliance with the wish expressed by you in your letter of the 22d instant, I proceed to make the report for which I have been asked concerning the articles in the bulletins which you sent to me, and which I return herewith. In my report of August 14 last I gave you an account of the cases of yellow fever found on board the steamer *Mayo*, stating that we had immediately proceeded to disinfect the rooms occupied by the patients, and to remove the patients from them by transferring them to the civil hospital of San Sebastien, and the clothing, mattresses, pillows, and other similar articles were disinfected in the steaming room of the delegation, as stated by Dr. Hodgson in his report, page 1442 of the bulletin; but it is very difficult to ascertain the cause of the development of the disease on board, as Dr. Hodgson is very positive in asserting that the laborers coming from the shore brought the germs, which is possible, though it is also possible that they were brought by the captain, who went to the city every day on business of the vessel, or that they were brought in the bags used in bringing on board the fresh provisions which were daily bought in the market; but it is not true that cases (of the disease) have been found only on Spanish vessels, as cases occurred on the *Flandilus*, the *Mira*, and the *King Gruffyd*, of English nationality, which cases I reported to your Department at the time, stating that the office under my charge had proceeded, as soon as it was notified (of the cases), to order the transfer of the patients to the city or the hospital, and the proper means of disinfection had been employed immediately, without waiting for Dr. Hodgson to employ them or to suggest them, as might be inferred from the language of one report. At the request of the captain of the steamer *Mayo*, we were about to proceed to disinfect the whole vessel, but, as when he was questioned as to the number of cubic meters in her hold, he replied that there were about 416,900, it was found that, at the rate of 30 grains of flowers of sulphur per cubic meter, it would require 12 tons of that article, the cost of which is \$300 a ton, and he was asked if he was willing to pay that amount, which he refused to do.

As the figures given by the captain were thought to be too large, orders were given to measure the holds, in order to know exactly how much sulphur would be required; but the captain then said that he could not wait for the disinfection, and that he would sail without it; and this is the reason why it was not done. As to the patient said by the American commissioner at Ship Island to have been seen on the way from Vera Cruz to that point, I can assure you that there was no patient at the time of the steamer's departure. With regard to the passenger who passed through El Paso, Tex., coming from Vera Cruz, without having a certificate that his baggage had been disinfected, it was the fault of the passenger himself that he did not come to this office and ask to have it disinfected, notwithstanding the notice published, by order of the council, in the local newspaper having the largest circulation. Dr. Hodgson says that the test for the diagnosis of yellow fever, at this port, is the appearance of albumen in the urine, which is true when the other symptoms of the disease have displayed themselves; but it is not true, as that gentleman seems to mean, that it is regarded by the physicians of this port as a pathognomonic symptom of the disease, and that the diagnosis is not complete until it appears. Dr. Hodgson thinks that passengers for Havana may contract the disease from contact with the passengers going to Progreso, who are not under his supervision like the former, and who are not examined by the Mexican authorities, as he asserts, but he is mistaken in this opinion, as in many others. The examination which he makes of the passengers, according to information obtained from themselves, consists in their proving to him, by the evidence of 2 persons, that they are immunes through long and continued residence at places where the yellow fever is endemic, or that they have once had that disease, or that they come direct from places where it does not exist, the same being their usual place of residence. Moreover, the passengers for Havana and Progreso all pass through this office, in order to procure their disinfection tickets, so as to pay their passage, at which time they are inspected, and their names are taken. Besides, Dr. Hodgson himself has seen the undersigned or the second delegate on board the American steamers a short time before their departure, without knowing whether we had gone there to inspect the passengers, as we did not make it a point to notify him of our business. While having the honor to bring the foregoing facts to your knowledge, I venture to request you, if there is no objection, to apply to the department of foreign relations to send to the United States Marine Hospital Service, through the proper channel, the corrections of the said reports, made by the delegate at Vera Cruz in the letter which I have transcribed, and at the same time to make it duly understood that Dr. Eduardo Licéaga, the president of the council, has never expressed the opinion attributed to him by Dr. Turpin, that there was an epidemic of yellow fever at Orizaba eighteen years ago." I have the honor to transcribe the foregoing to you for the purposes suggested by the council. I send you a copy for the purpose mentioned, and I repeat to you the assurances of my high consideration.

MARISCAL.

To the MEXICAN AMBASSADOR.

Report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *December 1, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the yellow-fever epidemic that has existed here since May of this year has disappeared.